

## Abstract

A method for activating a two-stage switching valve (7a, 7b) including a first stage which has a small flow cross-section and a second stage which has a larger flow cross section, the switching valve being situated between a main brake cylinder (4) and a hydraulic pump (9) in a hydraulic brake system (17). The pressure equalization knock on opening the switching valve (7) is substantially reduced by activating the switching valve (7) in a first control phase (A) via a control signal (20) having a low amplitude (22), due to which only the first stage of the valve (7) is first opened, and by activating the valve (7) in a second phase (B) via a control signal (20) having a higher amplitude.

10 Figure 3a